

Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.

1. amiss
(ə mis')

(*adj.*) faulty, imperfect, not as it should be; (*adv.*) in a mistaken or improper way, wrongly

Under the circumstances it would not be _____ to offer our congratulations.

SYNONYM: (*adj., adv.*) awry

ANTONYM: (*adv.*) properly

2. brawl
(brôl)

(*n.*) a noisy quarrel or fight; (*v.*) to quarrel or fight noisily

The noise coming from the classroom sounded more like a _____ than a debate.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) scuffle, donnybrook; (*v.*) spar, scrap

3. detest
(di test')

(*v.*) to hate, dislike very much, loathe

Children who dislike green vegetables often _____ spinach.

SYNONYMS: despise, abhor

ANTONYMS: relish, love, admire, esteem

4. domestic
(də mes' tik)

(*adj.*) native to a country, not foreign; relating to the life or affairs of a household; (*n.*) a household servant

The newspaper is filled with information about our country's _____ affairs.

When my grandmother first came to this country, she took a job as a _____.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) native; (*n.*) servant

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) foreign, alien

5. flagrant
(flā' grənt)

(*adj.*) extremely bad, glaring; scandalous, notorious

Crossing against the light shows a _____ disregard for the law.

SYNONYMS: blatant, gross, outrageous

ANTONYMS: petty, piddling, trifling, inconsequential

6. flaw
(flô)

(*n.*) a slight fault, defect, crack

We noticed a _____ in the plan to start building the house before the spring rains.

SYNONYMS: imperfection, blemish

ANTONYMS: faultlessness, perfection

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7. fledgling
(flej' lin)

(*n.*) an inexperienced person, beginner; a young bird about to leave the nest; (*adj.*) inexperienced, budding

We placed the _____ back in its nest.

A _____ police officer appeared on the scene and wisely called for assistance.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) novice, tyro, neophyte

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) pro, expert, veteran

8. fluster
(fləs' tər)

(*v.*) to make or become confused, agitated, or nervous; (*n.*) a state of confusion or agitation

During the trial, the judge told the attorney not to _____ the witness.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) agitate, disconcert

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) reassure, soothe, quiet

9. foremost
(fôr' mōst)

(*adj.*) chief, most important, primary; (*adv.*) in the first place

Among my interests, music is _____.

First and _____, you must call home to let your family know you'll be late.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) leading, principal, paramount

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) hindmost, last, secondary

10. momentum
(mō ment' əm)

(*n.*) the force or speed with which something moves

The presidential campaign gained _____ once the first primary was over.

SYNONYMS: drive, thrust, impetus

11. notable
(nōt' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) striking, remarkable; (*n.*) a person who is well known, distinguished, or outstanding in some way

Being chosen for the team was a _____ event in our lives.

The party was attended by _____ from the film world.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) noteworthy, exceptional

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) undistinguished, unremarkable; (*n.*) unknown

12. nurture
(nər' chər)

(*v.*) to bring up, care for, train, nourish; (*n.*) rearing, training, upbringing

It is wonderful to watch chimpanzees _____ their young.

The _____ they received as children served them well as they grew into adulthood.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) raise, rear, foster

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) neglect, ignore, discourage, hinder

13. paradox
(par' ə dāks)

(*n.*) a self-contradictory statement that on closer examination proves true; a person or thing with seemingly contradictory qualities

It is a _____ to say that youth is wasted on the young.

SYNONYMS: riddle, enigma, anomaly, absurdity

14. perjury
(pər' jə rē)

(*n.*) the act of swearing to a lie

The witness was convicted of _____ and was sentenced to serve two years in prison.

SYNONYM: false witness

15. presume
(pri zūm')

(*v.*) to take for granted, assume or suppose; to dare, take upon oneself, take liberties

The counselors _____ that the jobs they had last summer will be theirs this summer as well.

SYNONYMS: surmise, trespass, infringe

16. prior
(prī' ə)

(*adj.*) earlier, former

Unfortunately, the governor had a _____ appointment and could not meet with the class.

SYNONYMS: anterior, preceding; ANTONYMS: later, ensuing, following

17. proficient
(prə fish' ənt)

(*adj.*) skilled, expert, or capable in any field or activity

Dad knows his way around the kitchen and is quite a _____ cook.

SYNONYMS: competent, adept

ANTONYMS: incompetent, inept, unskilled, ignorant

18. salvo
(sal' vō)

(*n.*) a burst of gunfire or cannon shot, often as a tribute or salute; a sudden burst of anything; a spirited verbal attack

The audience erupted in a _____ of laughter.

SYNONYMS: barrage, volley

19. vigilant
(vij' ə lənt)

(*adj.*) wide-awake, alert, watchful

The _____ guards paced back and forth in front of the barracks.

SYNONYM: attentive; ANTONYMS: sleepy, inattentive, unobservant

20. wrath
(rath)

(*n.*) intense anger

In Greek and Roman myths, characters fear the _____ of the gods.

SYNONYMS: rage, ire, choler, indignation

ANTONYMS: favor, approval, pleasure, blessing

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 88–89 to see how most of these words are used in context.



The story of Romeo and Juliet's ill-fated love has captivated audiences for centuries.

1. To say that the U.S. Constitution is one of the greatest documents of all time does not mean that it is entirely without (**momentum, flaws**).
2. *Romeo and Juliet* opens with members of the rival houses of Montague and Capulet (**brawling, perjuring**) in the streets of Verona.
3. She may have given wrong information in court, but this was an honest mistake and certainly does not make her guilty of (**perjury, wrath**).
4. How can you expect the court to excuse your repeated and (**flagrant, vigilant**) violations of the traffic laws?
5. Though I hadn't expected to be treated quite so unkindly by the audience, I didn't become (**flustered, nurtured**) or lose my professional cool.
6. As support for our candidate continued to gain (**momentum, salvo**), it soon became clear that she would win the election by a landslide.
7. Nowadays (**domestics, fledglings**) are seen more often in old books and movies than in real life.
8. No parent can ever be (**vigilant, amiss**) enough to prevent a small child from taking many a painful tumble.
9. Under the American system of justice, any person accused of a crime is (**presumed, flawed**) to be innocent until proven guilty.
10. I am disturbed by the (**momentum, paradox**) of impoverished people in the richest land on Earth.
11. Because there had been no (**prior, proficient**) notice of the scholarship competition, we had practically no time to prepare for it.
12. "Something is (**foremost, amiss**) in this room," said the detective, peering over the back of the sofa, "and I intend to discover what it is."
13. Abraham Lincoln had very little formal schooling, but his mind was (**nurtured, flawed**) by such great literary works as the Bible and the plays of Shakespeare.
14. It was error only a (**flaw, fledgling**), not a more experienced officer, could have committed.
15. I can forgive an honest mistake, but I (**presume, detest**) any attempt to cover up errors by lying.

16. The struggle against terrorism has been one of the (**notable, proficient**) features of our time.
17. The easternmost tip of Cuba was the first populated area in the region to feel the (**paradox, wrath**) of Hurricane Zelda.
18. The charges of incompetence the candidate leveled at her opponent were but the opening (**brawl, salvo**) in her campaign to become mayor.
19. The rather skinny boy whom we had noticed only two years before as a (**prior, fledgling**) quarterback was now an all-American!
20. (**Foremost, Flagrant**) among the reasons that so many millions of immigrants have come to the United States is the desire for freedom.
21. A happy (**domestic, nurture**) life can afford an executive a great deal of relief from the everyday strains of running a large company.
22. It was hard to believe that the small, rather ordinary-looking person who was standing before us was a world-famous (**notable, fledgling**).
23. Please don't take it (**amiss, notably**) if I suggest that your French accent sounds more like Paris, Texas, than Paris, France.
24. She worked so easily and quietly that at first we did not realize how remarkably (**proficient, amiss**) she was in the laboratory.
25. The unexpected award left me in a confused but thrilling (**fluster, wrath**).

Synonyms

Choose the word from this Unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. felt his enemy's **fury** _____
2. witnessed a violent street **battle** _____
3. did not **rattle** the experienced pilot _____
4. was responsible for a variety of **household** chores _____
5. committed **false oath** during the trial _____
6. a really **impressive** effort _____
7. became an **able** gymnast after much practice _____
8. not trust the script to **apprentice** screenwriters _____
9. had been involved in a **previous** arrest _____
10. suspected that something had gone **off target** _____

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Antonyms

Choose the word from this Unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. a real **old-timer** at the game of chess _____
2. had no **subsequent** arrests _____
3. an **ordinary** person without any striking qualities _____
4. almost nothing **correct** in her homework _____
5. the witness's **honesty** on the stand _____

Completing the Sentence

From the words in this Unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the correct word form in the space provided.

1. I must warn you once again that if you fail to tell the truth, you may lay yourself open to a charge of _____.
2. Her parents _____ her musical talents by hiring the finest teachers and taking her to hear the performances of great musicians.
3. I have no way of knowing for sure why she left, but I _____ that she had a good reason for doing so.
4. In most respects she is a fine person, but excessive stubbornness is the one important _____ in her character.
5. It's a fact that some important battles of the American Revolution occurred _____ to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
6. Some people truly love the music of such modern composers as Arnold Schoenberg or Igor Stravinsky; others absolutely _____ it.
7. How do you explain the fact that some students who do poorly in math are highly _____ in figuring out batting averages?
8. We must be _____ in recognizing the early signs of decay in our community and move quickly to improve conditions.
9. I wouldn't call such a(n) _____ and premeditated lie merely a "minor lapse of memory."
10. I well remember how often during my childhood I felt the full force of my parents' _____ when I had done something wrong.

11. We suspected that something was _____ when he did not return home from school at the usual time.
12. At what point does a spinning top lose sufficient _____ to topple over?
13. _____ among her many outstanding qualities is her ability to understand the points of view of other people.
14. Like a(n) _____ eagle about to leave the nest for the first time, our son is preparing to spend his first summer away from home.
15. When two players suddenly started to throw punches at each other during last night's game, an ugly bench-clearing _____ ensued.
16. In the old days, wooden battleships saluted their victorious admiral by repeatedly firing _____ of cannon shot from their decks.
17. The speaker went right on with his speech, in no way _____ or disturbed by the jeers and catcalls of a few rowdy hecklers.
18. Though his career as a whole was not particularly distinguished, he did score one _____ success on Broadway a few years ago.
19. That terrible instruments of war should in fact prove useful as guardians of the peace is one of the _____ of modern life.
20. The minister saw from the statistics that imported goods were cutting into the _____ market.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "Everything That Happens, Happens as It Should" (pages 88–89). Think about the title, and relate it to what you learned about Blasius and his circumstances. Do you agree that everything that happens in Blasius's world has happened as it should? Write an argument stating and defending your opinion. Write two or three paragraphs, and use at least three details from the passage and three Unit words.
2. In the reading "Everything That Happens, Happens as It Should," the Roman slave Blasius says that Emperor Marcus Aurelius believes that "no man is given more hardship than he can endure." Do you agree with this statement? In a brief essay, support your opinion with specific examples from your observations, studies, reading (refer to pages 88–89), or personal experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this Unit.

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Vocabulary in Context

Literary Text

The following excerpts are from Mark Twain's novel *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Some of the words you have studied in this Unit appear in **boldface** type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. The woman paled slightly, but quite perceptibly, and the man looked **flustered** and irresolute.

Someone who is **flustered** is NOT

- a. steady c. confused
b. agitated d. tired

2. "Take a rest, child; the way you are using up all the **domestic** air, the kingdom will have to go to importing it by to-morrow, and it's a low enough treasury without that."

Air that is **domestic** is

- a. neat and tidy c. native to a place
b. unlikely to d. from a distant location
cause trouble

3. They are full of admiration of his vast bulk and his prodigious strength; they speak with pride of the fact that he can do a hundred marvels which are far and away beyond their own powers; and they speak with the same pride of the fact that in his **wrath** he is able to drive a thousand men before him.

Someone who feels **wrath** is

- a. careful c. brave
b. mighty d. angry

4. Ah, Sandy, what a right heart she had, how simple, and genuine, and good she was! She was a **flawless** wife and mother.

A **flawless** person is

- a. impatient c. perfect
b. hasty d. tired

5. The saving in expense was a **notable** economy. You will see that by these figures: . . . at former rates, this would have cost the government about \$240; at the new rate we pulled through for about \$35, thus saving upward of \$200 at one swoop.

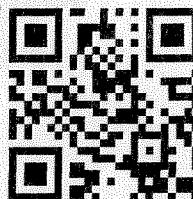
A **notable** economy is

- a. impressive c. indifferent
b. ordinary d. declining



Mark Twain was one of the greatest humor writers in American literature. In *A Connecticut Yankee*, his main character goes back in time to the era of knights in armor.

Interactive
Quiz



Snap the code, or go to
vocabularyworkshop.com